

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6535

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FOR AF/I SLEZAK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: AALC: TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

1. DIRECTOR OF TRADE UNION INSTITUTE (TUI) OKON ESHIETT HAS TOLD EMBASSY NIGERIAN ASSISTANT THAT HE WROTE LETTERS FEW WEEKS AGO TO HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO AND FMG NUMBER TWO MAN YAR'ADUA URGING REOPENING OF TUI. ESHIETT ALSO LODGED COMPLAINT WITH PUBLIC COMPLAINTS COMMISSION ON CONTINUED PRESENCE POLICE AT INSTITUTE. ESHIETT APPARENTLY EGGED ON BY GENERAL TRADE UNIONIST PRESSURES AND BY PLIGHT INSTITUTE STAFF WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PAID SINCE DECEMBER-JANUARY. (RECENT /DAILY TIMES/ LABOR EDITORIAL POINTED UP LATTERS' PROBLEMS.) SHIETT SAID HE HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO AALC IN LETTERS OR COMPLAINT.

2. YAR'ADUA ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT ESHIETT'S LETTER AND LABOR MINISTRY HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN STIRRED TO ACTION OF SORTS. AT MINISTRY'S REQUEST, ESHIETT HAS SUBMITTED INVENTORY OF ALL TUI ASSETS AND PROPERTY. INVENTORY INCLUDES AALC RESIDENCE FURNISHINGS (WHICH OUR NIGERIAN ASSISTANT FOUND IN AALC RESIDENCE GARAGE) AND CAR. MINISTRY WAS TO HAVE SUBMITTED ACTION MEMO LAST WEEK TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL ON TUI AND ASSETS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHAT ACTION MEMO WAS TO HAVE CALLED FOR (THERE SOME QUESTION WHETHER MEMO WAS EVEN SUBMITTED), WE SUSPECT IT WOULD HAVE RECOMMENDED REOPENING

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UNDER GOVERNMENT ASUPICES. IT POSSIBLE THAT GOVERNMENT MAY BE

ON VERGE OF DREDGING UP PREVIOUSLY UNAVAILABLE FUNDS TO RUN INSTITUTE. A SIGN THAT GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONSIDERING SUCH MOVE IS REPORT THAT MINISTRY DIRECTOR OKOGWU HAS APPROACHED TUI LANDLORD ON SUBJECT OF RENT. LANDLORD APPARENTLY SAID FMG WOULD HAVE TO PAY NAIRA 25,000 -- UP FROM NAIRA 7,500 AALC PAYS ANNUALLY UNDER LEASE WHICH LANDLORD ACKNOWLEDGES IS STILL VALID. IN ANY EVENT, THERE NO INDICATION SMC HAS DECIDED ANYTHING YET.

3. FATE OF TUI WOULD STILL SEEM TO BE CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION OTHER MORE GENERAL AND BASIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNIONISTS. BUT HERE TOO THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF RECENT PROGRESS. FORMAL HEARINGS TRADE UNION INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL HAVE ENDED (SEPTEL). FMG PRESUMABLY WOULD BE PREPARED MOVE POSITIVELY ON SEVERAL FRONTS ONCE TRIBUNAL HAS SUBMITTED ITS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN NEXT MONTH. HOWEVER, PARA ONE AND TWO INFO IS FAIR SIGN FMG MAY MOVE ON TUI SOONER. WE HAVE NOTHING FIRM ON WHAT ROLE IF ANY AALC WOULD BE ALLOWED PLAY IN REOPENED TUI BUT PROSPECTS AT THIS TIME FOR RESUMPTION ITS FORMER ROLE DO NOT APPEAR BRIGHT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING ABOUT ANY APPROACHES OR NEWS AALC MAY HAVE HAD FROM GOVERNMENT OR FROM LOCAL UNION LEADERS. EASUM

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